

FABLES™

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VERTIGO

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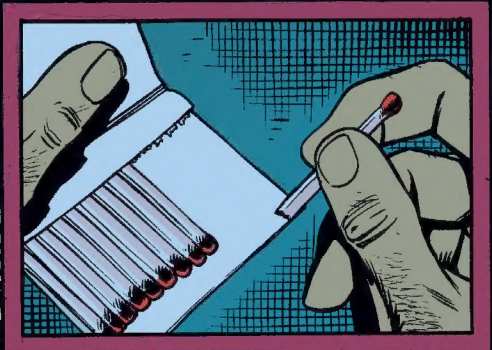
SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS



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"DESPITE WHAT YOU SEE ON TV, THE TYPICAL COP'S LIFE CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS UNENDING HOURS OF MIND-NUMBING DRUDGERY.

"GUNFIGHTS AND CAR CHASES ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. THEY GENERATE SO MUCH EXTRA PAPERWORK-- AND SECOND-GUESSING BY EVERYONE NOT INVOLVED-- THAT NO SANE COP WELCOMES SUCH BREAKS IN THE GENERAL TEDIUM OF POLICE WORK."



AND NO HONEST COP EVER GETS RICH.

AT LEAST A MUNDY COP GETS TO RETIRE AFTER TWENTY TO FORTY YEARS.

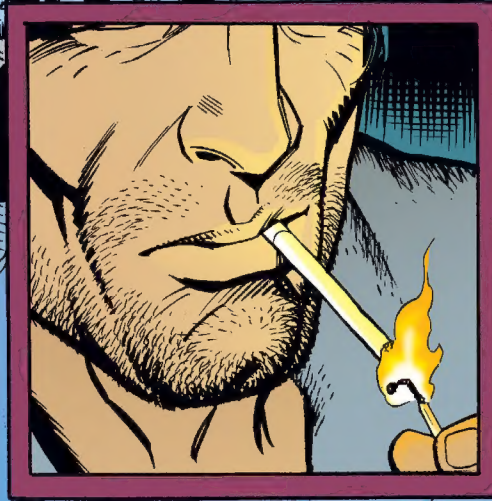
I'VE BEEN ON THE JOB FOR MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED YEARS-- EVER SINCE THE FIRST DAYS OF THE FABLES IN EXILE COMPACT AND GENERAL AMNESTY.



I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A GUNFIGHT-- OR FIRED A GUN FOR THAT MATTER.

I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A CAR CHASE-- MUCH LESS LEARNED TO DRIVE.

AND EVEN THE NUMBER OF TIMES I'VE HAD TO CHASE A SUSPECT ON FOOT CAN BE COUNTED ON ONE HAND.



CHAPTER FIVE: The Famous Parlor Room Scene (Sans Parlor)

In which everything is neatly wrapped up in the end, even though few are satisfied with the outcome.

ALL IN ALL, I CAN'T SAY I'VE HAD WHAT COULD BE DESCRIBED AS AN EXCITING CAREER--OR EVEN A VERY INTERESTING ONE.

BUT ONCE IN A GREAT WHILE, SMALL REWARDS DO COME ALONG.

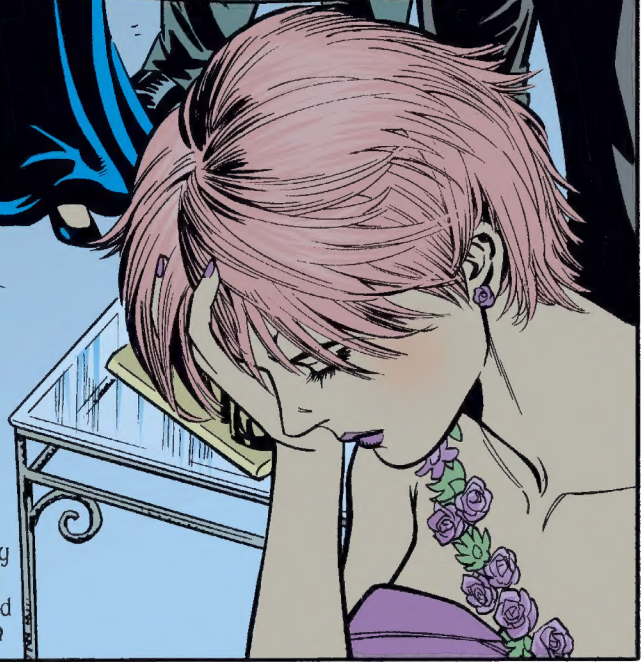
ANYONE WHO'S EVER FANCIED HIMSELF A DETECTIVE, OPENLY OR SECRETLY, LONGS FOR THE DAY HE CAN DO THE FAMOUS PARLOR ROOM SCENE.

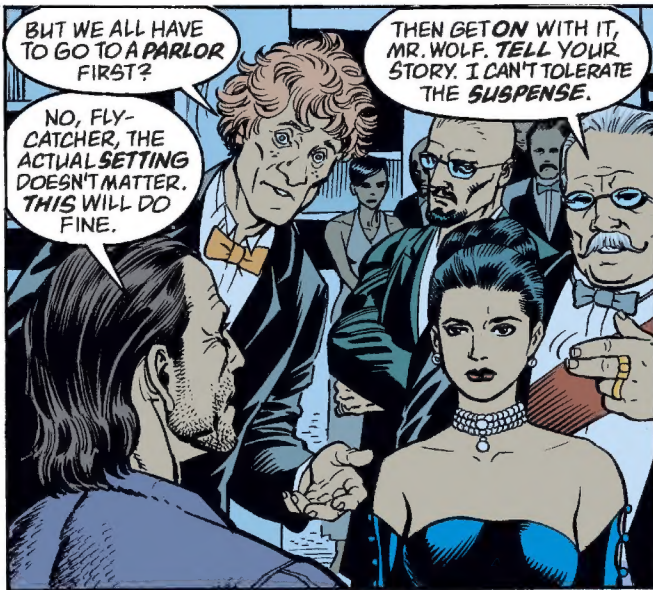
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

IT'S THE MOMENT WHEN I GET TO REVEAL WHO DID WHAT, HOW THEY DID IT--AND MOST IMPORTANT--HOW I FIGURED IT ALL OUT.

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BUT WE ALL HAVE TO GO TO A PARLOR FIRST?

NO, FLY-CATCHER, THE ACTUAL SETTING DOESN'T MATTER. THIS WILL DO FINE.

THEN GET ON WITH IT, MR. WOLF. TELL YOUR STORY. I CAN'T TOLERATE THE SUSPENSE.



WHEN THE LORD MAYOR OF FABLETOWN COMMANDS, I CAN ONLY OBEY.

MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS CASE WERE RAISED THE VERY MOMENT I FIRST LEARNED OF IT.

"WE'RE ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE, FAR AWAY FROM ROSE RED'S APARTMENT DOWN IN THE VILLAGE. JACK HAD TO TAKE A CAB UP HERE IN ORDER TO REPORT THE SO-CALLED CRIME."

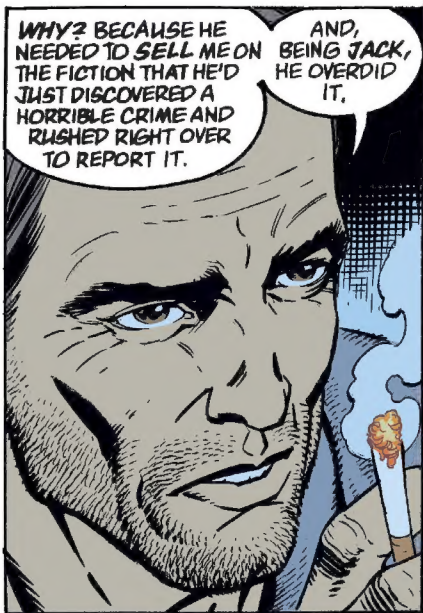
"JACK'S IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE."

"A SIMPLE RUN TO MY OFFICE, FROM A CAB PARKED OUTSIDE, SHOULDN'T HAVE WINDED HIM."

"BUT HE ARRIVED FRANTIC AND OUT OF BREATH."

...huh...
huh...

A TERRIBLE THING HAPPENED!





"BLOOD WAS SPILLED AND SPATTERED EVERYWHERE--ALL OVER EVERY SURFACE OF ROSE'S LIVING ROOM.


"NO ONE COULD HAVE GONE IN AND OUT OF THERE, AFTER THE VIOLENCE, WITHOUT LEAVING PLENTY OF FOOTPRINTS.



CHECK IN THE BEDROOM TO SEE IF SHE'S IN THERE!


"AND YET JACK SAID HE'D SEARCHED THE PLACE, LOOKING FOR ROSE."

I ALREADY CHECKED. SHE'S NOT HERE.




WHY COULDN'T IT BE THAT I WAS JUST CAREFUL TO SKIP AND HOP OVER THE BLOOD SPATTERS, LIKE YOU DID, TO PRESERVE THE EVIDENCE?

OH SURE. THAT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.



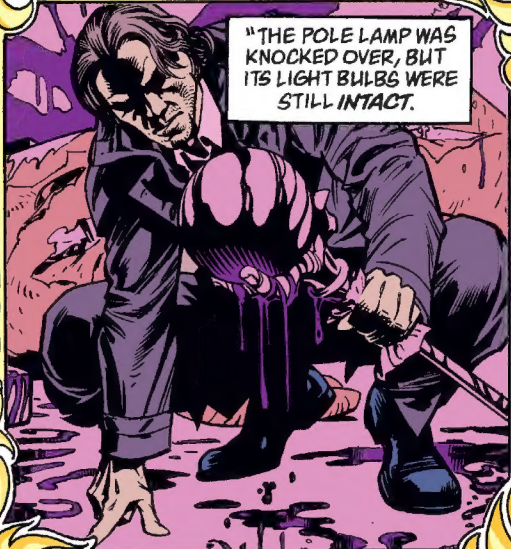
NOT A CHANCE, JACK. NO ONE ENCOUNTERING A SCENE LIKE THAT WORRIES ABOUT PRESERVING EVIDENCE WHILE HIS LADY LOVE MAY STILL BE IN THE BACK ROOM BLEEDING HER LIFE AWAY.



BUT THAT WAS FAR FROM YOUR ONLY AMATEUR MISTAKE.

THE NEXT TIME YOU TWO TRY TO STAGE A CRIME SCENE, YOU SHOULD ACTUALLY KNOCK THINGS OVER--

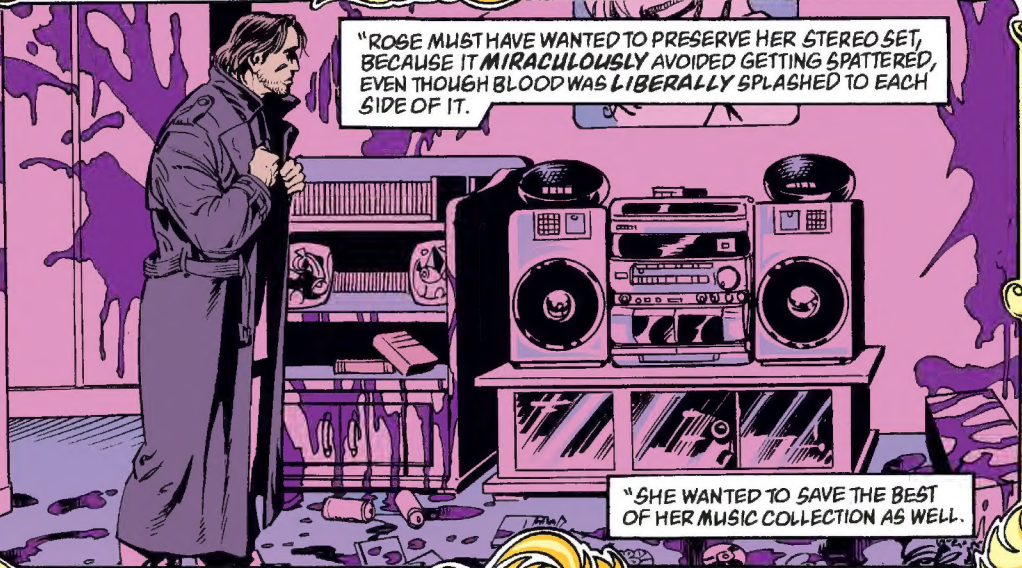
-- RATHER THAN CAREFULLY PLACE THEM IN POSITIONS YOU WANT THEM TO END UP IN.



"THE POLE LAMP WAS
KNOCKED OVER, BUT
ITS LIGHT BULBS WERE
STILL INTACT."




"ROSE RED'S FAVORITE HANDMADE CERAMIC
ASHTRAY WAS *SUPPOSEDLY* KNOCKED TO THE
FLOOR, WITHOUT SO MUCH AS *CHIPPING* IT."

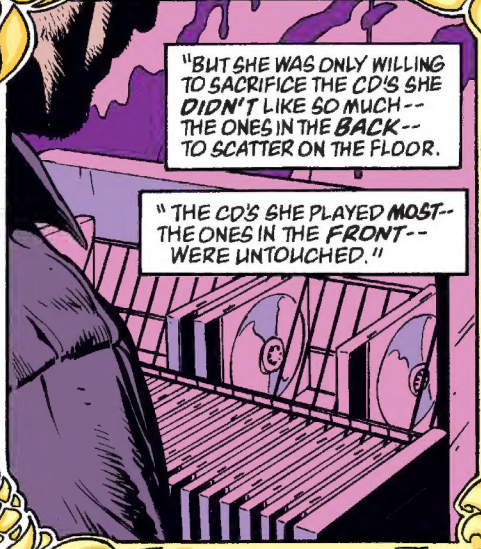


"ROSE MUST HAVE WANTED TO PRESERVE HER STEREO SET,
BECAUSE IT *MIRACULOUSLY* AVOIDED GETTING SPATTERED,
EVEN THOUGH BLOOD WAS *LIBERALLY* SPLASHED TO EACH
SIDE OF IT."

"SHE WANTED TO SAVE THE BEST
OF HER MUSIC COLLECTION AS WELL."

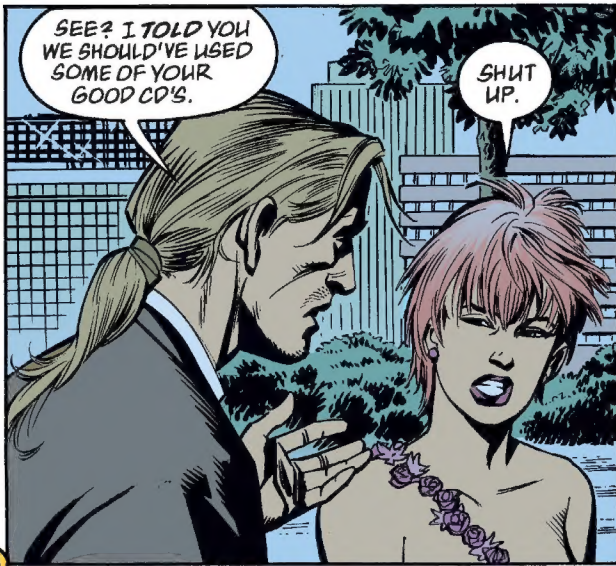


"COMPACT DISKS SPREAD OUT ALL
OVER THE FLOOR MAKE FOR GOOD
SET DECORATION, WHEN ONE WANTS
TO SUGGEST THAT A VIOLENT
STRUGGLE HAS TAKEN PLACE."



"BUT SHE WAS ONLY WILLING
TO SACRIFICE THE CD'S SHE
DIDN'T LIKE SO MUCH--
THE ONES IN THE *BACK*--
TO SCATTER ON THE FLOOR."

"THE CD'S SHE PLAYED MOST--
THE ONES IN THE *FRONT*--
WERE UNTOUCHED."



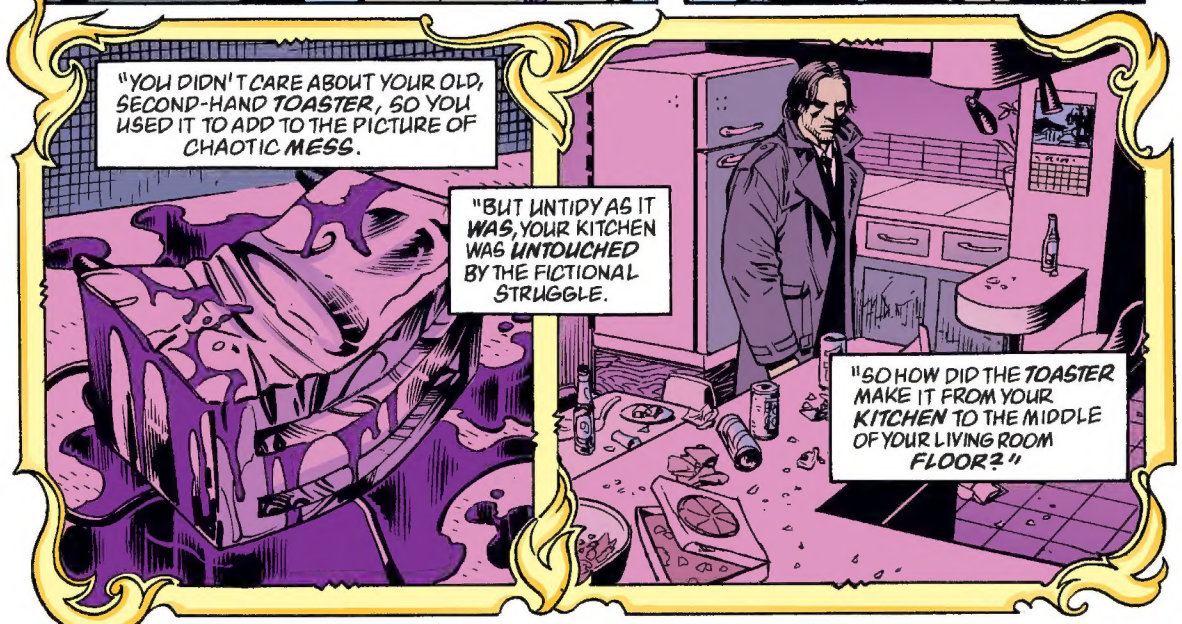
SEE? I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD'VE USED SOME OF YOUR GOOD CD'S.

SHUT UP.



YOU MADE IT PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT ONE OR BOTH OF YOU EXPECTED TO MAKE FUTURE USE OF THE STEREO AND SUCH.

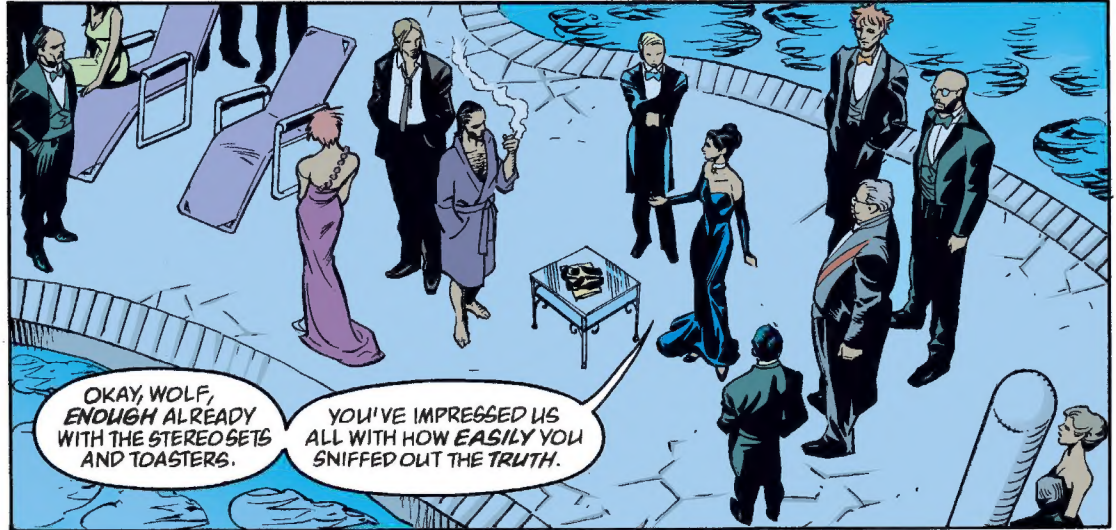
BUT ROSE WOULDN'T HAVE CONSIDERED THOSE THINGS WHILE FIGHTING FOR HER LIFE.



"YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT YOUR OLD, SECOND-HAND TOASTER, SO YOU USED IT TO ADD TO THE PICTURE OF CHAOTIC MESS.

"BUT UNTIDY AS IT WAS, YOUR KITCHEN WAS UNTOUCHED BY THE FICTIONAL STRUGGLE.

"SO HOW DID THE TOASTER MAKE IT FROM YOUR KITCHEN TO THE MIDDLE OF YOUR LIVING ROOM FLOOR?"



OKAY, WOLF, ENOUGH ALREADY WITH THE STEREOSETS AND TOASTERS.

YOU'VE IMPRESSED US ALL WITH HOW EASILY YOU SNIFFED OUT THE TRUTH.



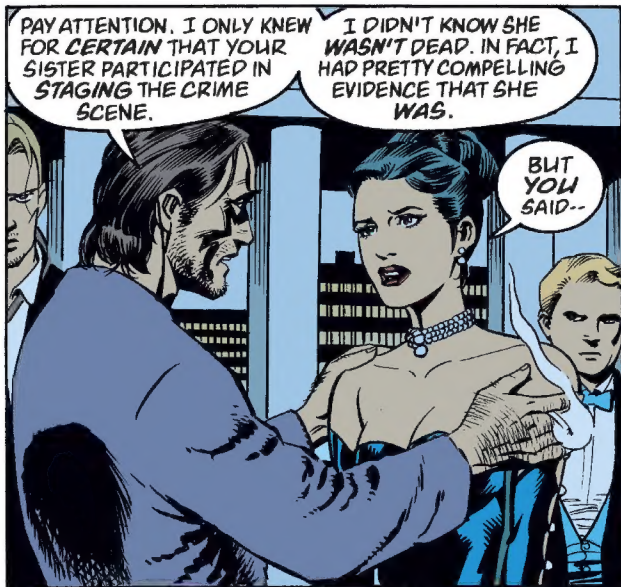
BUT WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS THIS: IF YOU KNEW FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THAT ROSE WAS STILL ALIVE, WHY DID YOU GO ON PRETENDING TO INVESTIGATE?

HOLD ON, TIGER. PULL YOUR CLAWS BACK IN.



HOW COULD YOU LET ME GO FOR DAYS-- WEEKS--

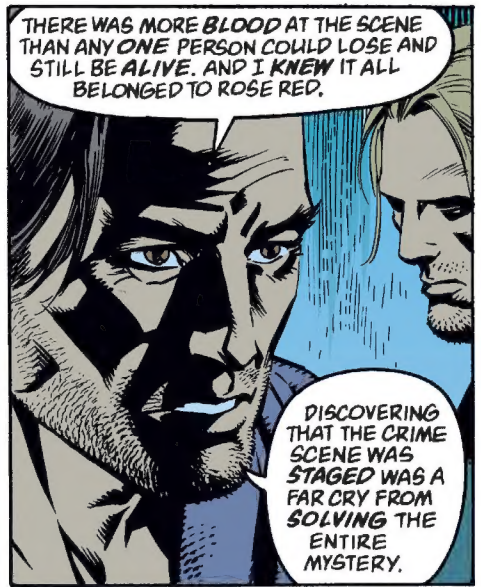
--THINKING MY SISTER WAS DEAD, WHEN ALL ALONG YOU KNEW SHE WASN'T?



PAY ATTENTION. I ONLY KNEW FOR CERTAIN THAT YOUR SISTER PARTICIPATED IN STAGING THE CRIME SCENE.

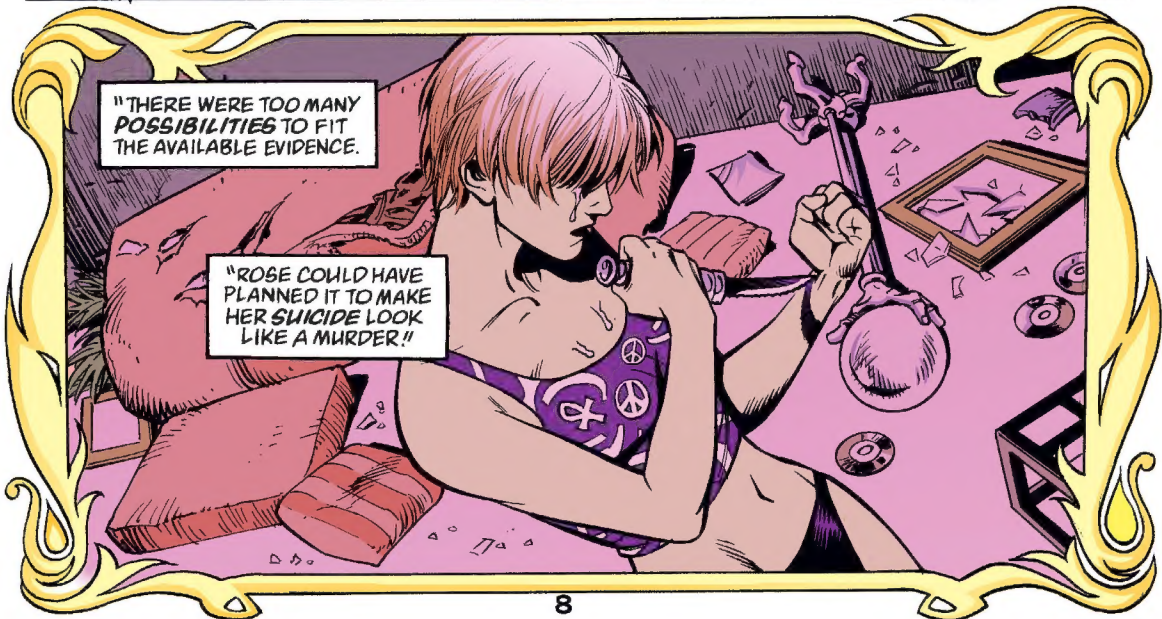
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WASN'T DEAD. IN FACT, I HAD PRETTY COMPELLING EVIDENCE THAT SHE WAS.

BUT YOU SAID--



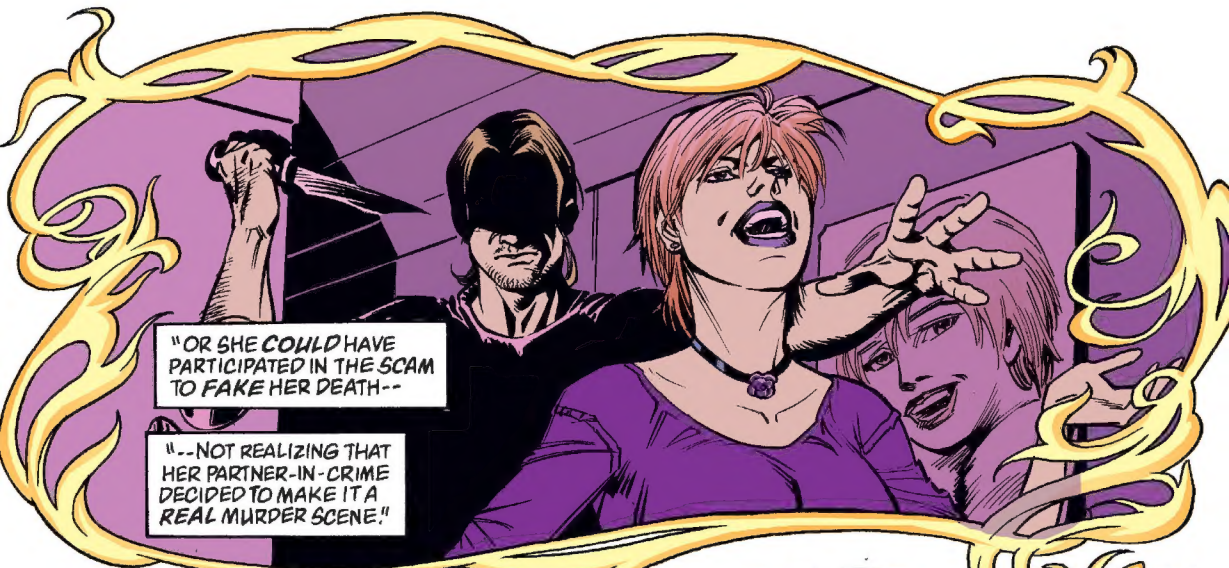
THERE WAS MORE BLOOD AT THE SCENE THAN ANY ONE PERSON COULD LOSE AND STILL BE ALIVE. AND I KNEW IT ALL BELONGED TO ROSE RED.

DISCOVERING THAT THE CRIME SCENE WAS STAGED WAS A FAR CRY FROM SOLVING THE ENTIRE MYSTERY.



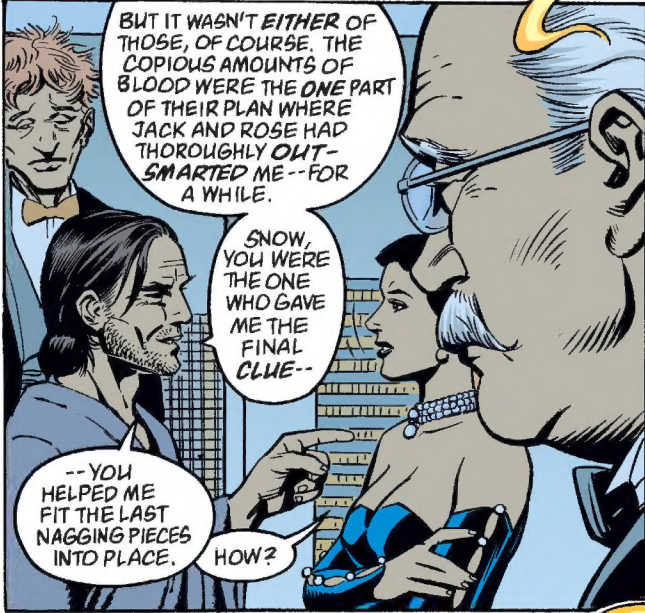
"THERE WERE TOO MANY POSSIBILITIES TO FIT THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE.

"ROSE COULD HAVE PLANNED IT TO MAKE HER SUICIDE LOOK LIKE A MURDER!"



"OR SHE COULD HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE SCAM TO FAKE HER DEATH--"

"...NOT REALIZING THAT HER PARTNER-IN-CRIME DECIDED TO MAKE IT A REAL MURDER SCENE!"



BUT IT WASN'T EITHER OF THOSE, OF COURSE. THE COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF BLOOD WERE THE ONE PART OF THEIR PLAN WHERE JACK AND ROSE HAD THOROUGHLY OUT-SMARTED ME--FOR A WHILE.

SNOW, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE FINAL CLUE--

--YOU HELPED ME FIT THE LAST NAGGING PIECES INTO PLACE.

HOW?



"EARLIER THIS EVENING, WHILE WE WERE DANCING AT THE GALA."

LET'S EAT.

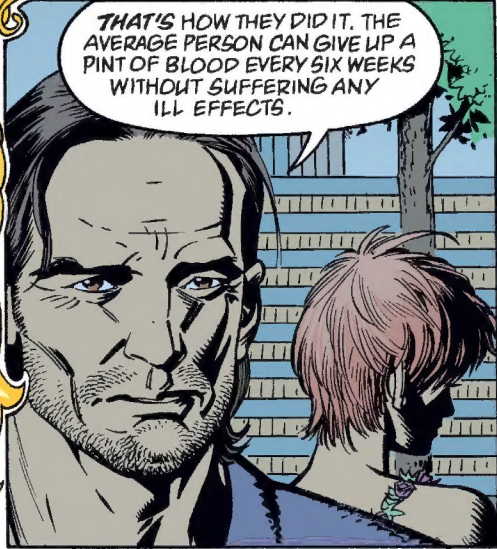
TOO LATE. THE GOOD FOOD IS ALREADY GONE.



"YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT LOCKING THE FOOD AWAY TO KEEP THE PARTY GUESTS FROM GETTING TO IT."

BUT WE CAN RAID THE KITCHEN.

THE CATERERS ALWAYS KEEP THE GOOD STUFF LOCKED AWAY IN THE BACK.



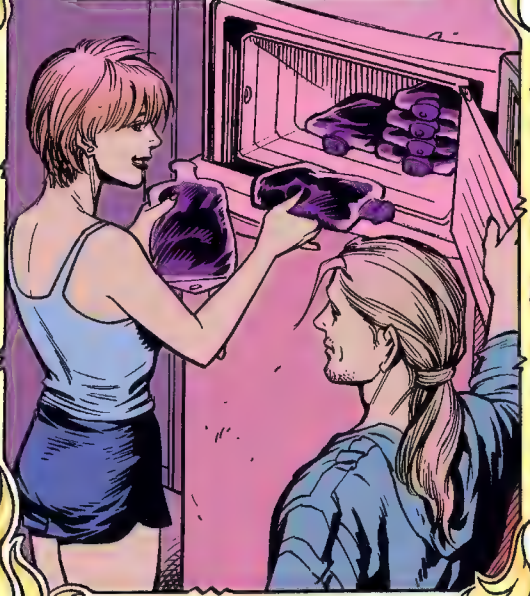
THAT'S HOW THEY DID IT. THE AVERAGE PERSON CAN GIVE UP A PINT OF BLOOD EVERY SIX WEEKS WITHOUT SUFFERING ANY ILL EFFECTS.

"THEY HAD TO HAVE HAD THIS IDIOT SCHEME PLANNED FOR SOME TIME..."



"... BECAUSE IT TOOK A WHILE FOR ROSE TO COLLECT THE FIVE OR SIX PINTS OF HER OWN BLOOD NEEDED TO CONVINCE US THAT SHE WAS DEAD."

"THEY STORED HER BLOOD IN HER FREEZER, SO IT WOULD STILL BE FRESH WHEN THEY NEEDED IT."

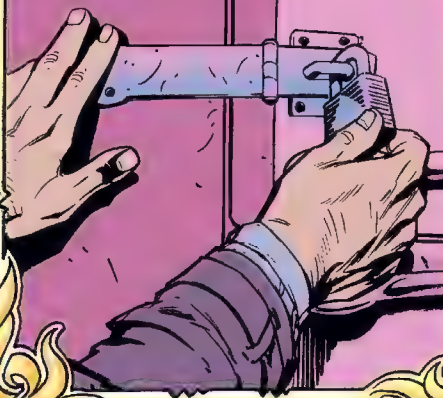


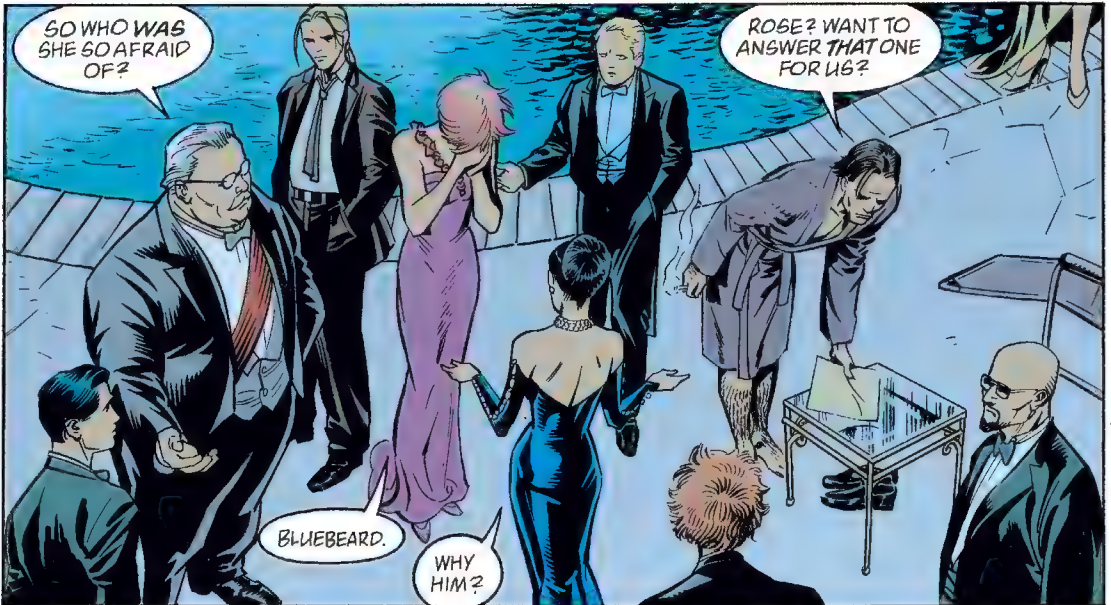
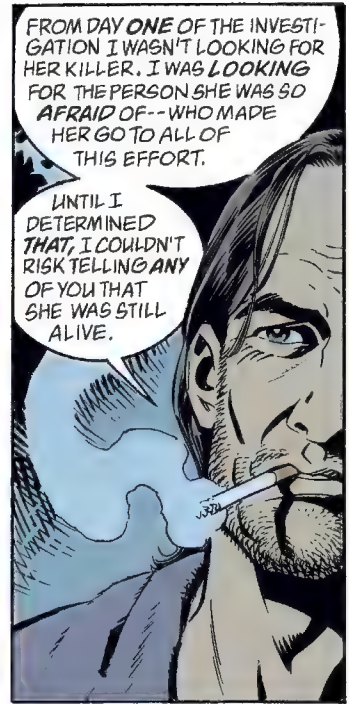
"BUT THEY ALWAYS HAD SO MANY PEOPLE OVER, THEY NEEDED SOME WAY TO KEEP THEIR GUESTS FROM DISCOVERING THE BLOOD PACKETS."

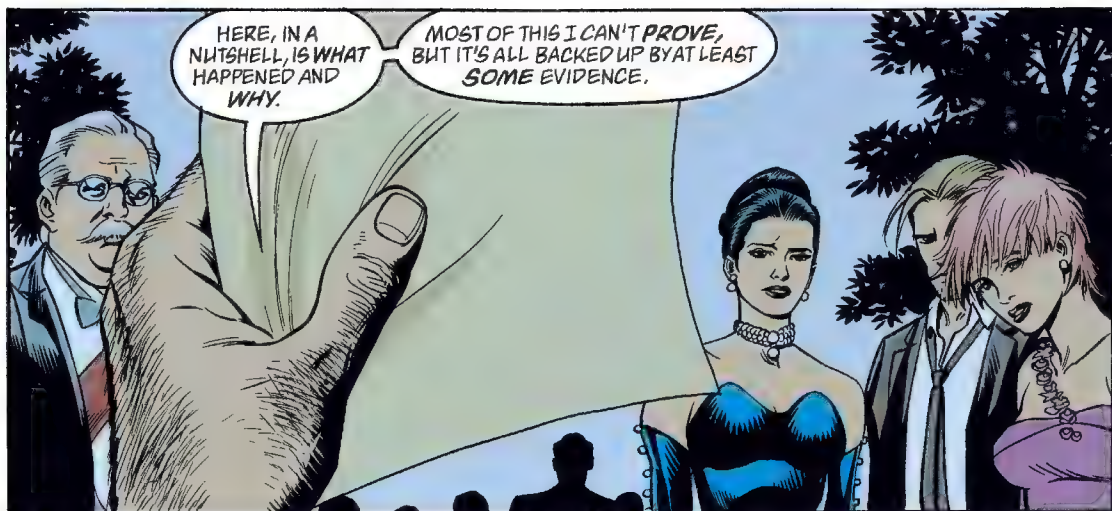
"WHICH IS WHY THEY NEEDED TO KEEP HER FREEZER COMPARTMENT LOCKED UP."



"WHICH EXPLAINS WHY I FOUND A PADLOCK IN THEIR UTILITY DRAWER THAT FIT THE MATCHING HOLES DRILLED INTO THE FREEZER DOOR!!"







HERE, IN A NUTSHELL, IS WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY.

MOST OF THIS I CAN'T PROVE, BUT IT'S ALL BACKED UP BY AT LEAST SOME EVIDENCE.

"OVER A YEAR AGO, JACK HAD ANOTHER ONE OF HIS ALL-TOO-NUMEROUS GET RICH QUICK SCHEMES. IT WAS AN IDEA FOR ONE OF THOSE DOT-COM STARTUPS, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT.

"TRUST JACK TO TRY TO JUMP ON A BAND-WAGON LONG AFTER IT'S PASSED BY.

"STARTUPS LIKE THAT TAKE MONEY.

"AND TYPICALLY JACK TURNS TO HIS GIRL-FRIEND TO GET IT."

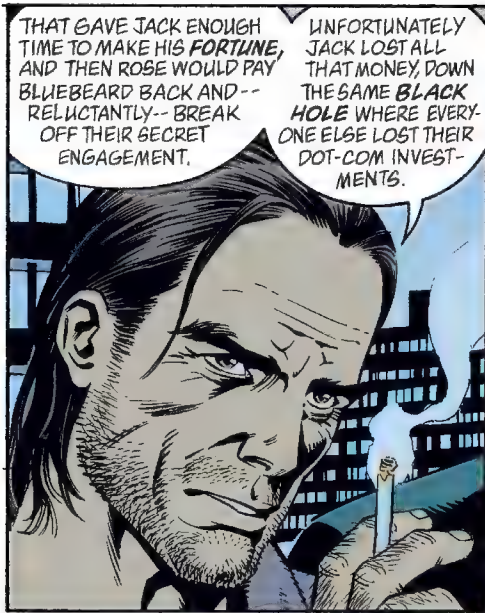
IT'S A SURE THING, HONEY BEAR, AND WHEN I GET RICH I CAN PAY YOU BACK AND YOU CAN PAY HIM BACK.

I DON'T KNOW, JACK...

"IN ORDER TO RAISE THE MONEY JACK NEEDED, ROSE AND JACK FAKED A MESSY PUBLIC BREAKUP, AFTER WHICH SHE AGREED TO MARRY BLUEBEARD, WHO'D BEEN AFTER HER FOR SOME TIME.

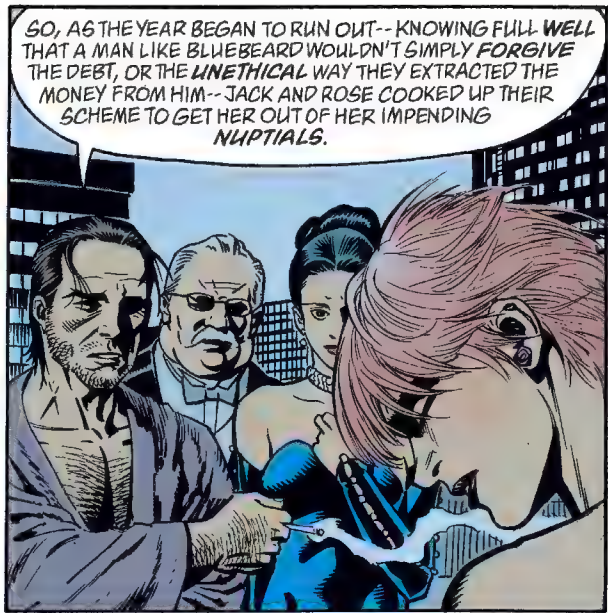
"BUT SHE HAD SOME CONDITIONS. SHE WANTED A LOT OF UP-FRONT DOWRY MONEY AND THE ENGAGEMENT HAD TO BE KEPT SECRET FOR EXACTLY ONE YEAR."



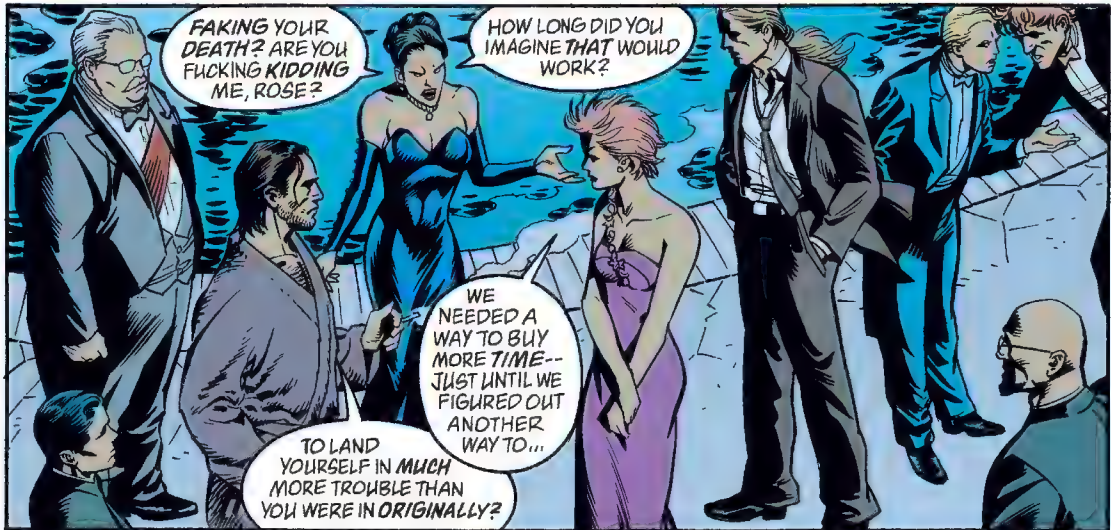


THAT GAVE JACK ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE HIS FORTUNE, AND THEN ROSE WOULD PAY BLUEBEARD BACK AND-- RELUCTANTLY-- BREAK OFF THEIR SECRET ENGAGEMENT.

UNFORTUNATELY JACK LOST ALL THAT MONEY, DOWN THE SAME BLACK HOLE WHERE EVERYONE ELSE LOST THEIR DOT-COM INVESTMENTS.



SO, AS THE YEAR BEGAN TO RUN OUT-- KNOWING FULL WELL THAT A MAN LIKE BLUEBEARD WOULDN'T SIMPLY FORGIVE THE DEBT, OR THE UNETHICAL WAY THEY EXTRACTED THE MONEY FROM HIM-- JACK AND ROSE COOKED UP THEIR SCHEME TO GET HER OUT OF HER IMPENDING NUPTIALS.



FAKING YOUR DEATH? ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME, ROSE?

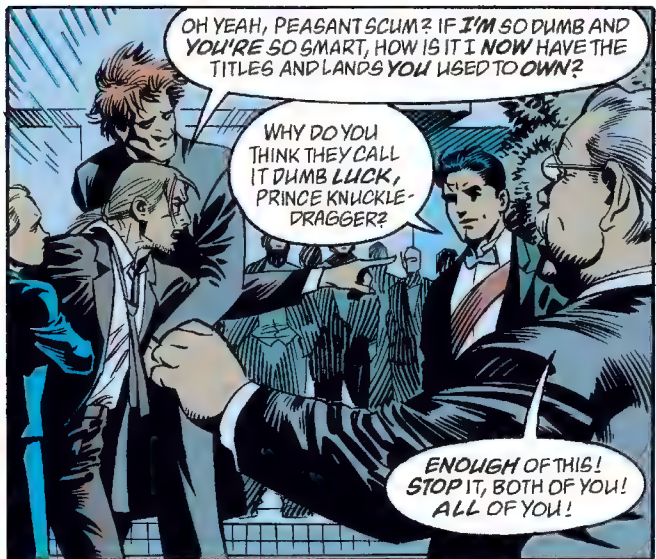
HOW LONG DID YOU IMAGINE THAT WOULD WORK?

WE NEEDED A WAY TO BUY MORE TIME-- JUST UNTIL WE FIGURED OUT ANOTHER WAY TO...

TO LAND YOURSELF IN MUCH MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU WERE IN ORIGINALLY?



NEITHER ROSE NOR JACK EARNED RENOWN FOR THEIR INTELLIGENCE. WORKING TOGETHER, THEY COULDN'T HELP BUT REACH NEW LOWS OF IMBECILITY.



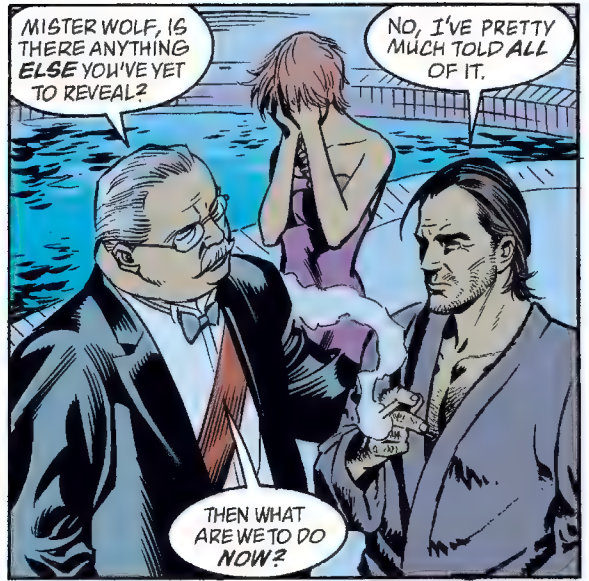
OH YEAH, PEASANT SCUM? IF I'M SO DUMB AND YOU'RE SO SMART, HOW IS IT I NOW HAVE THE TITLES AND LANDS YOU USED TO OWN?

WHY DO YOU THINK THEY CALL IT DUMB LUCK, PRINCE KNUCKLE-DRAGGER?

ENOUGH OF THIS! STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU! ALL OF YOU!



BY GOD I'LL HAVE ORDER NOW, OR I'LL HAVE SOME HEADS ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK!



MISTER WOLF, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'VE YET TO REVEAL?

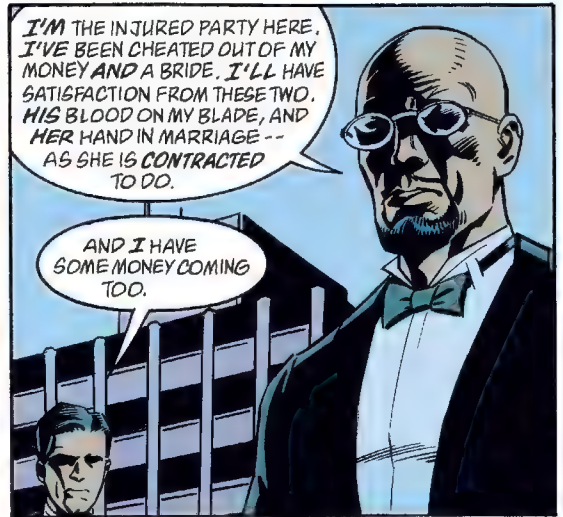
NO, I'VE PRETTY MUCH TOLD ALL OF IT.

THEN WHAT ARE WE TO DO NOW?



WHO KNOWS? I'VE DONE MY JOB BY FIGURING EVERYTHING OUT. IT'S UP TO YOU AND SNOW TO WORK OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

BUT I HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS, IF YOU'D CARE TO HEAR ABOUT THEM--IN PRIVATE.



I'M THE INJURED PARTY HERE. I'VE BEEN CHEATED OUT OF MY MONEY AND A BRIDE. I'LL HAVE SATISFACTION FROM THESE TWO. HIS BLOOD ON MY BLADE, AND HER HAND IN MARRIAGE--AS SHE IS CONTRACTED TO DO.

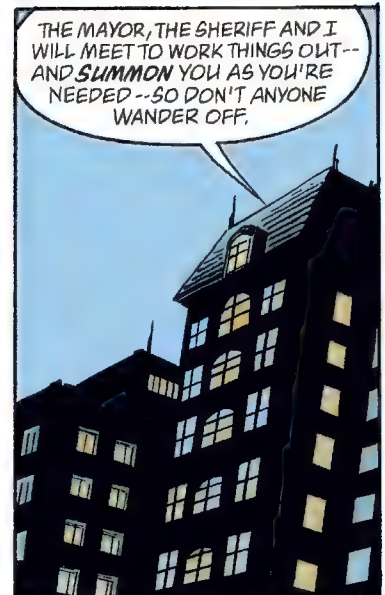
AND I HAVE SOME MONEY COMING TOO.



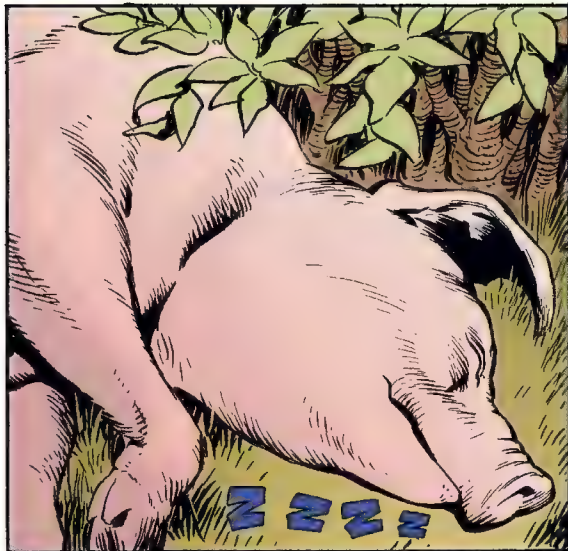
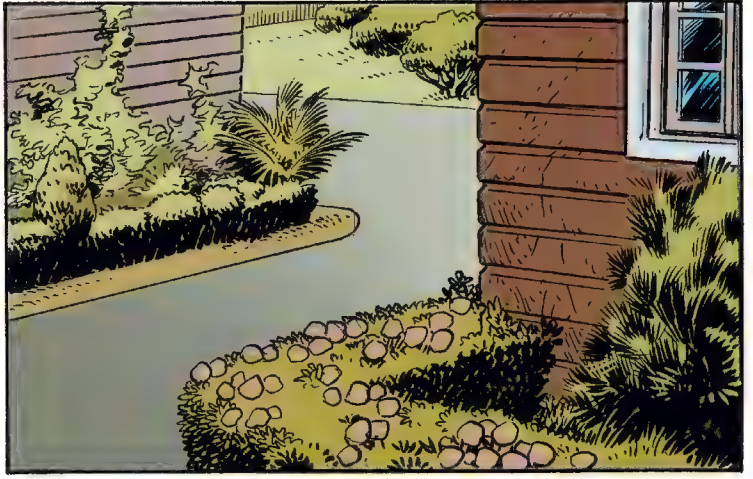
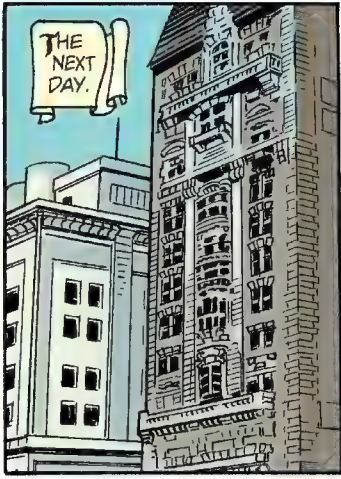
YOU'VE YET TO PAY ME THE GLDRIOUS MILLIONS I'VE EARNED FOR THE RAFFLE OF MY TITLE AND ESTATES.

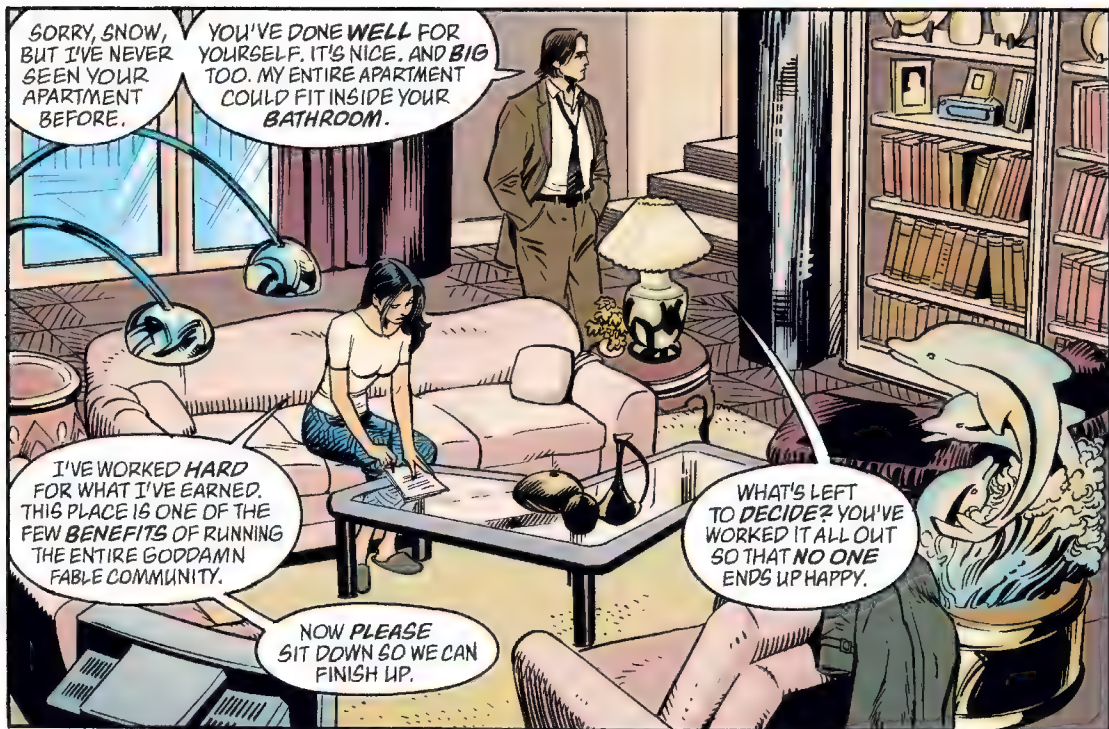


WE'LL SETTLE ALL OF THAT LATER. FOR NOW, IT'S LATE. EVERYONE GO HOME, AND STAY THERE.



THE MAYOR, THE SHERIFF AND I WILL MEET TO WORK THINGS OUT--AND SUMMON YOU AS YOU'RE NEEDED--SO DON'T ANYONE WANDER OFF.





SORRY, SNOW, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR APARTMENT BEFORE.

YOU'VE DONE WELL FOR YOURSELF. IT'S NICE. AND BIG TOO. MY ENTIRE APARTMENT COULD FIT INSIDE YOUR BATHROOM.

I'VE WORKED HARD FOR WHAT I'VE EARNED. THIS PLACE IS ONE OF THE FEW BENEFITS OF RUNNING THE ENTIRE GODDAMN FABLE COMMUNITY.

WHAT'S LEFT TO DECIDE? YOU'VE WORKED IT ALL OUT SO THAT NO ONE ENDS UP HAPPY.

NOW PLEASE SIT DOWN SO WE CAN FINISH UP.



BUT AT LEAST THE MISERY IS SPREAD OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

AND KING COLE WILL GO ALONG WITH THIS?

THE MAYOR'S JOB IS TO GLAD-HAND AND SET GENERAL POLICY. IT'S MY JOB TO WORK OUT THE DIRTY DETAILS.



HE'LL GO ALONG WITH WHAT I DECIDE.

NO ONE'S GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY WITH YOU AFTER TODAY.



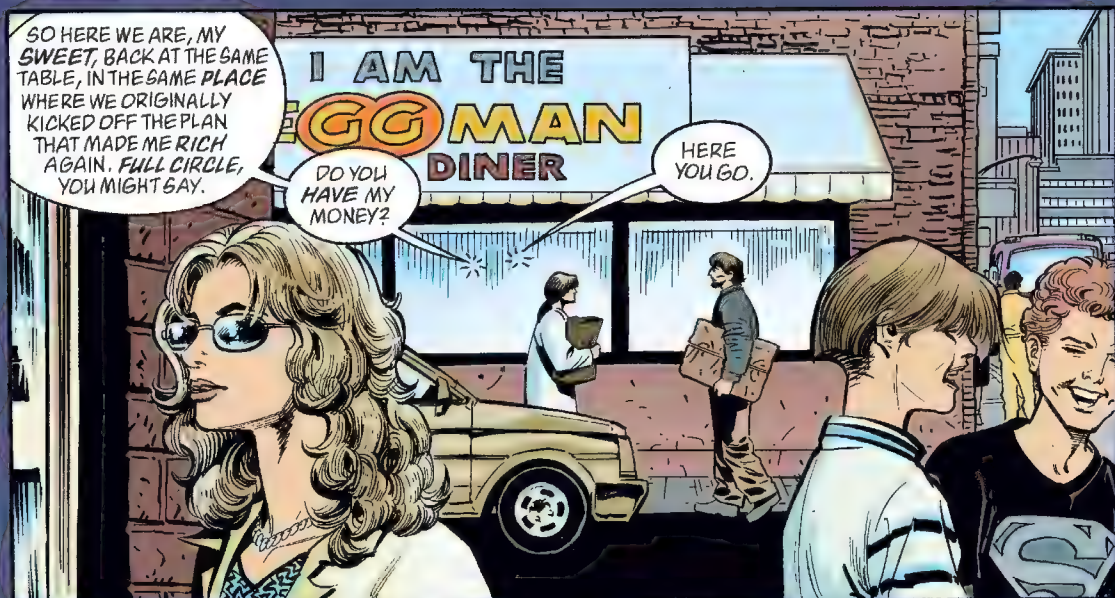
BOO FUCKING HOD. I'LL TRY TO LIVE WITH THE LOSS.

WHEN DID YOU START CUSSING SO MUCH?



NOW LET'S GET TO IT. BRING THEM TO ME IN THIS ORDER, AT THESE PLACES, AND I'LL HANDLE THE ACTUAL BLOODLETTING.

DON'T YOU DARE LIGHT THAT UNTIL YOU LEAVE.



SO HERE WE ARE, MY SWEET, BACK AT THE SAME TABLE, IN THE SAME PLACE WHERE WE ORIGINALLY KICKED OFF THE PLAN THAT MADE ME RICH AGAIN. FULL CIRCLE, YOU MIGHT SAY.

DO YOU HAVE MY MONEY?

HERE YOU GO.

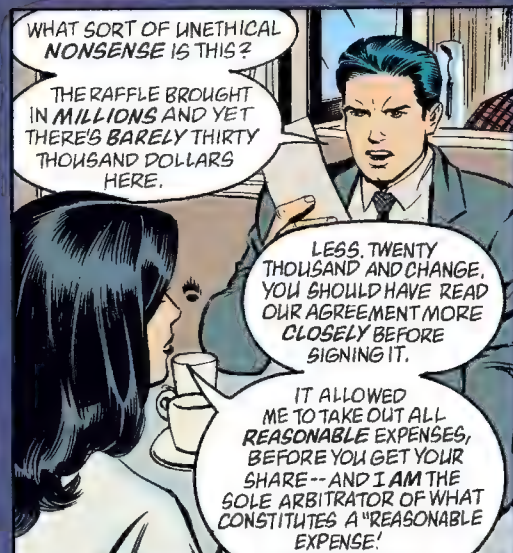
I AM THE EGG MAN DINER



DON'T SPEND IT ALL IN ONE PLACE, DARLING.

WHERE'S THE REST?

THAT'S ALL OF IT--LESS THE PRE-AGREED FEES AND EXPENSES OF COURSE.



WHAT SORT OF UNETHICAL NONSENSE IS THIS?

THE RAFFLE BROUGHT IN MILLIONS AND YET THERE'S BARELY THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS HERE.

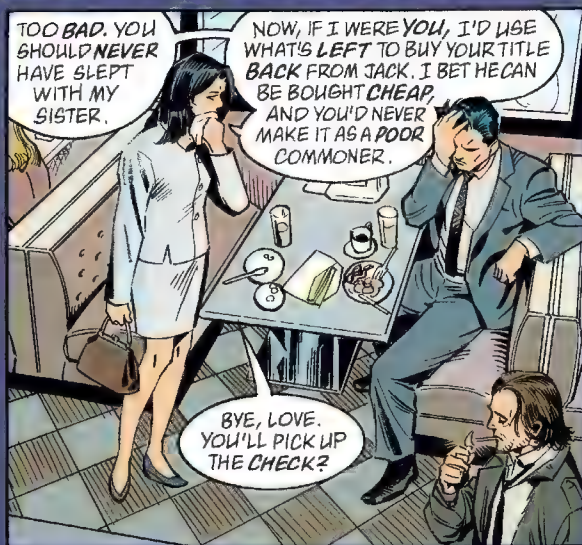
LESS TWENTY THOUSAND AND CHANGE. YOU SHOULD HAVE READ OUR AGREEMENT MORE CLOSELY BEFORE SIGNING IT.

IT ALLOWED ME TO TAKE OUT ALL REASONABLE EXPENSES, BEFORE YOU GET YOUR SHARE--AND I AM THE SOLE ARBITRATOR OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A "REASONABLE EXPENSE!"



THE MONEY WE RAISED IS NEEDED TO PAY OFF BLUEBEARD, AND THE COST OF THE INVESTIGATION. YOU'RE LUCKY I GAVE YOU THE LEFTOVERS.

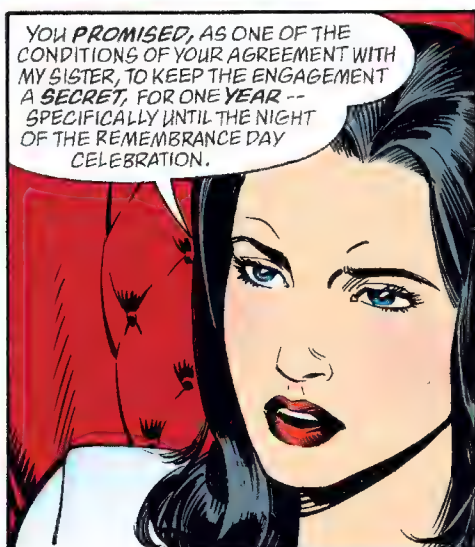
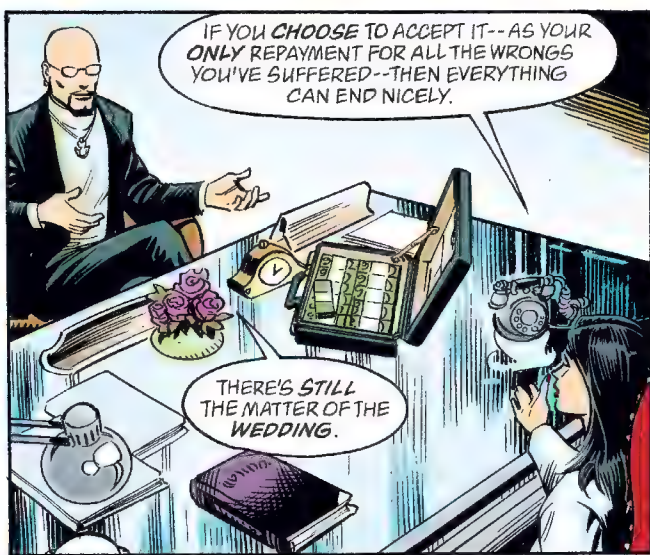
BUT NONE OF THAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY!

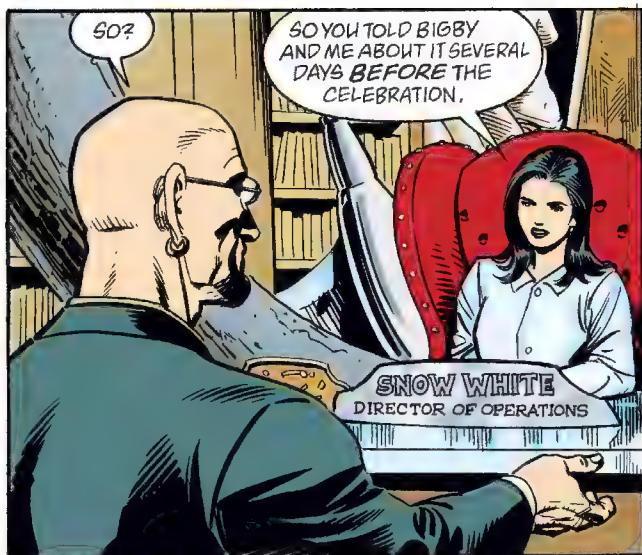


TOO BAD. YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE SLEPT WITH MY SISTER.

NOW, IF I WERE YOU, I'D USE WHAT'S LEFT TO BUY YOUR TITLE BACK FROM JACK. I BET HE CAN BE BOUGHT CHEAP, AND YOU'D NEVER MAKE IT AS A POOR COMMONER.

BYE, LOVE. YOU'LL PICK UP THE CHECK?





SO?

SO YOU TOLD BIGBY AND ME ABOUT IT SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE CELEBRATION.

SNOW WHITE
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

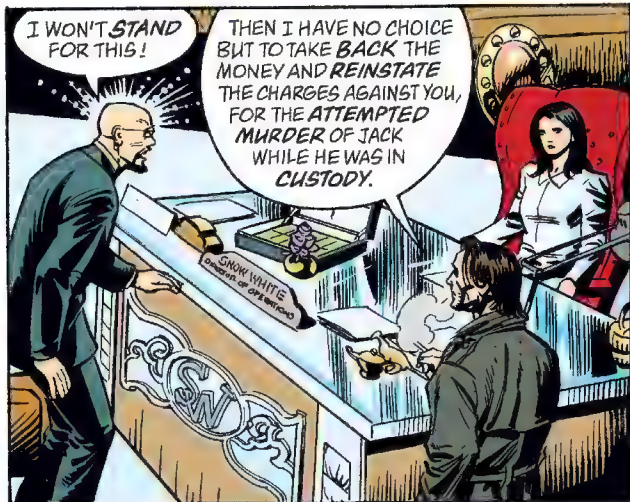


ONLY WHEN WE ALL THOUGHT SHE'D BEEN **MURDERED!** ONLY IN RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTIONS, IN AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION!



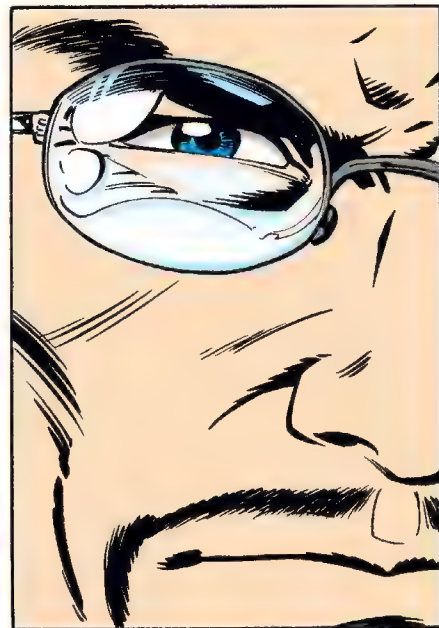
SO? YOU BROKE THE **CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT, MAKING IT NULL AND VOID.**

YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH THAT WE'RE WILLING TO **REIMBURSE** THE MONEY YOU'VE LOST. WE DON'T HAVE TO.



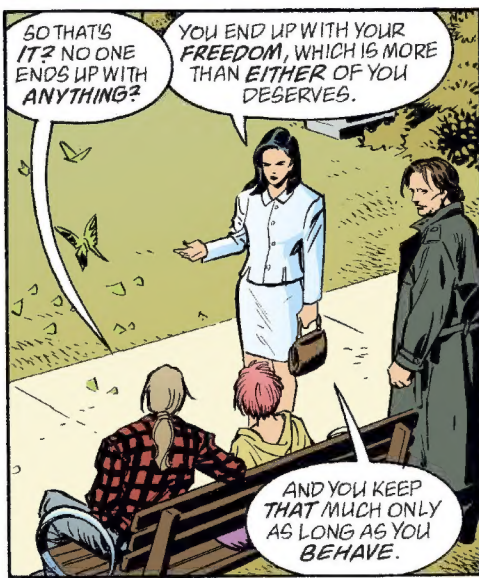
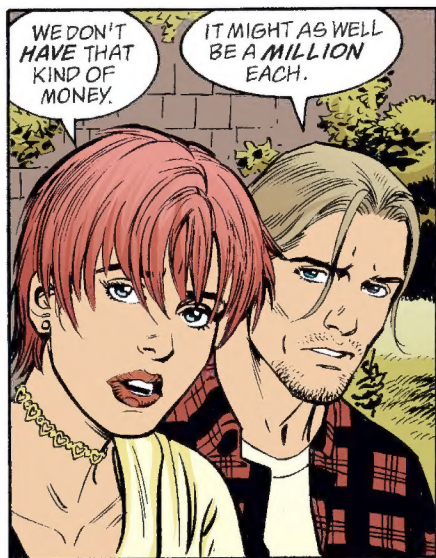
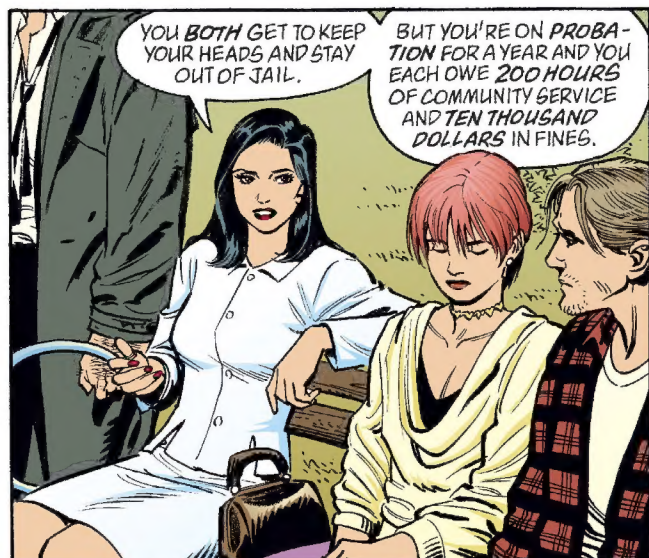
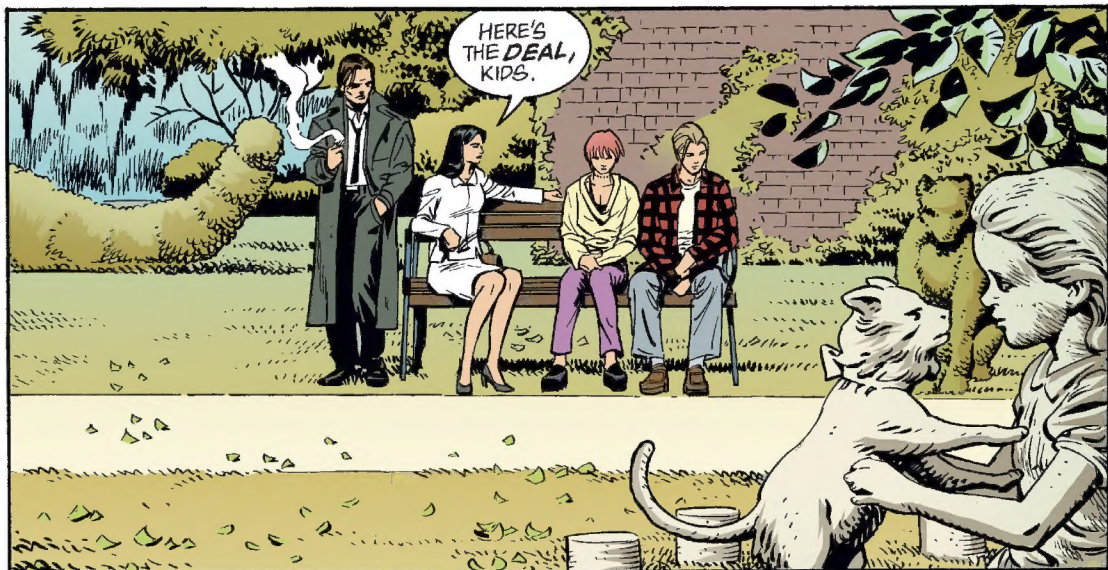
I WON'T **STAND** FOR THIS!

THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE **BACK** THE MONEY AND **REINSTATE** THE CHARGES AGAINST YOU, FOR THE **ATTEMPTED MURDER OF JACK** WHILE HE WAS IN **CUSTODY.**



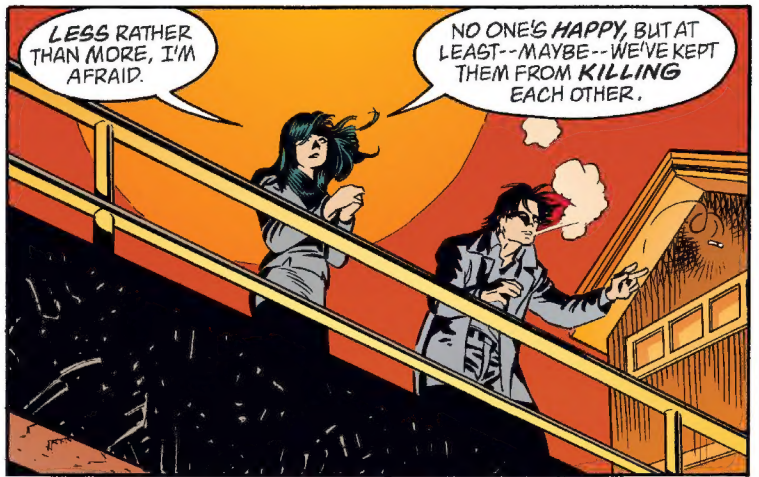
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS YOUR **HEAD** GOES THE WAY OF SO MANY OF YOUR PAST **WIVES' HEADS.**

CHOPPY CHOPPY-- SO SLOPPY.





AND WE ALL MANAGED TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER, AFTER ALL-- MORE OR LESS.



LESS RATHER THAN MORE, I'M AFRAID.

NO ONE'S HAPPY, BUT AT LEAST--MAYBE--WE'VE KEPT THEM FROM KILLING EACH OTHER.



THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

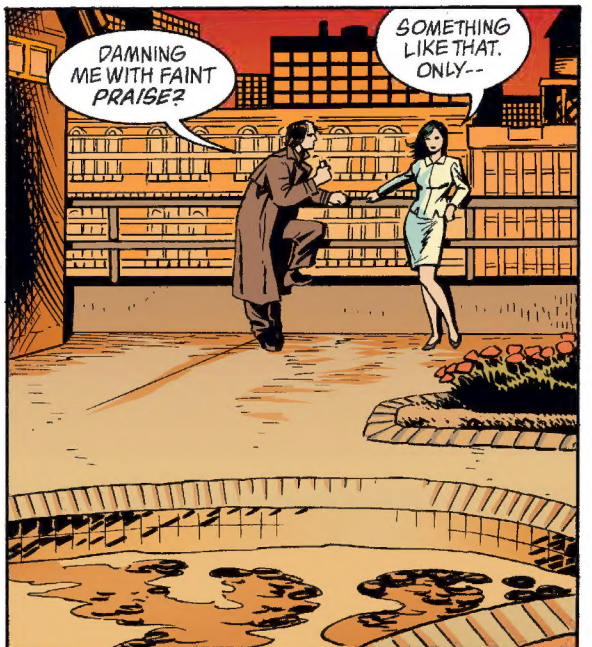
THIS WAS ONE LONG, EXHAUSTING DAY. I'M OFFICIALLY BEAT.

BUT YOU HANDLED YOURSELF WELL. AFTER SEEING YOU WORK TODAY, I'M GLAD WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE.



NO, ALL I DID WAS THROW MY WEIGHT AROUND. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED THE DAY. YOU FIGURED EVERYTHING OUT.

YOU'RE REALLY NOT A HALF-BAD DETECTIVE.



DAMNING ME WITH FAINT PRAISE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT. ONLY--



YES?

THERE'S STILL ONE THING I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY DID YOU NEED ME TO BE YOUR DATE AT THE REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATION?

I EXPLAINED THAT AT THE TIME.



NO YOU DIDN'T. YOU SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO HELP YOU SOLVE THE CASE, BUT YOU NEVER EXPLAINED WHY. HOW DID THAT HELP YOU? WHY WAS IT NECESSARY AT ALL?

WELL, I THINK THE REASON SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.



THEN I MUST JUST BE A DIM BULB TONIGHT. I NEED THE OBVIOUS INTERPRETED FOR ME.

I WANTED YOU TO GO TO THE DAMNED DANCE WITH ME--AS MY DATE.

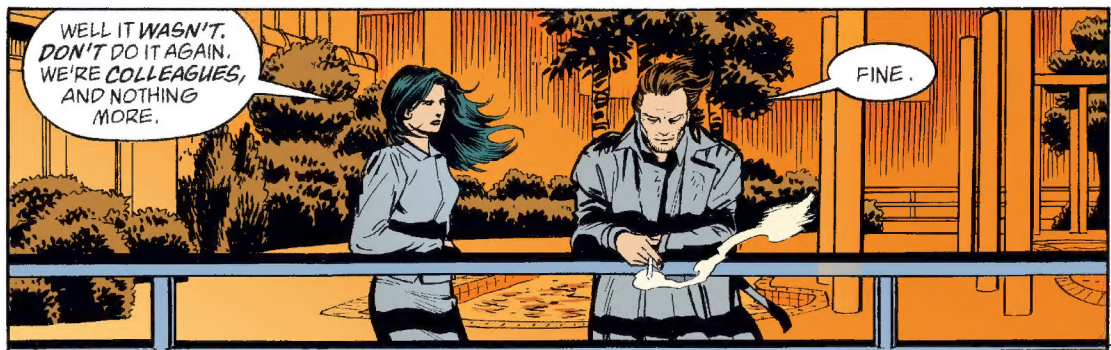


SERIOUSLY? YOU WERE TOO SHY--OR AFRAID--TO ASK ME TO GO TO THE GALA WITH YOU, SO YOU PRETENDED IT WAS BUSINESS-RELATED?

YEAH, THAT'S ABOUT IT.

THAT'S PATHETIC.

REALLY? I WAS HOPING FOR SOMETHING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF, ODDLY, DISARMINGLY CHARMING.



WELL IT WASN'T. DON'T DO IT AGAIN. WE'RE COLLEAGUES, AND NOTHING MORE.

FINE.



SERIOUSLY. NEVER AGAIN. BACK OFF, BIGGY.

OKAY, LADY, I GOT THE MESSAGE. LOUD AND CLEAR.

The End - FOR NOW.

NEXT: MARK BUCKINGHAM PENCILS THE FIVE-PART "ANIMAL FARM"!



NATHAN